

Education & Development

Child Support Training Conference

The seventh annual AB 1058-Child Support Training Conference brings together child support commissioners, family law facilitators, and administrative, accounting, and court clerical staff to update them on the latest developments in the area of child support. The conference will take place September 24–26 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in San Diego.

Conference participants will learn about recent developments at the Department of Child Support Services, new child support rules, and forms. They will hear updates on budget, accounting, and administrative issues. Workshops include

“Court Clerk Training,” “Legislative Update,” “Accounting and Administration,” and “Data Collection.”

The deadline to register for the conference is August 23.

● For more information, visit www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/resources/calendar/conferences/1058training.htm or contact Carolyn Castaneda, Center for Families, Children & the Courts, 415-865-7675; e-mail: carolynn.castaneda@jud.ca.gov. ■

Resources

Revised Handbook for Assigned Judges

Effective July 1, Chief Justice Ronald M. George issued the revised *Handbook for the Assigned Judges Program*, containing standards, guidelines, and procedures for judicial assignments in the program.

The state Constitution gives the Chief Justice the power to assign judges to “expedite judicial business and to equalize the work of judges.” In fiscal year 2001–2002, retired judges serving in the Assigned Judges Program provided 33,237 days of assistance to the courts—the equivalent of approximately 133 judicial positions.

The manual offers guidance to interested judges on the steps

they need to take to be considered for an assignment and their obligations once they have been selected. It also details the policies considered in implementing the Assigned Judges Program and provides information about the role of court staffs and their assistance to judges participating in the program.

Major revisions in this edition include:

□ Requiring judges in the program to annually certify that they will not participate in any privately compensated dispute resolution;

□ Requiring judges to attend, every other year, an educational institute in their major substantive area of law, equaling the training required of active judges; and

□ Mandating that assigned judges fulfill the Judges’ Oath of Office requirements.

● For more information or copies of the *Handbook for the Assigned Judges Program*, contact Brad Campbell, Assigned Judges Program, 415-865-7638; brad.campbell@jud.ca.gov.

Online Children’s Book in Spanish

What’s Happening in Court: An Activity Book for Children Going to Court in California is now available in Spanish on the California Courts Web site.

Whether children are witnesses, visitors, or involved in a case, the activity book introduces them to court processes, to the people who work in the judicial system, and to the vocabulary associated with judicial proceedings. The book teaches children about legal proceedings in areas such as dependency, delinquency, mental health, family, guardianship, adoption, and emancipation.

The electronic version of the activity book includes several enhancements. It contains many games that have been made interactive or are available to print and play. The site has been set up to give children an incentive to play all of the games. A clue is furnished after each game. When they finish the book, players can plug the clues into a phrase and receive a “diploma” from the site. In addition, children can color most of the illustrations themselves with crayons or pens after printing them off the computer.

● To view the activity book online in English or Spanish, visit www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/children.htm. To order print copies of the English or Spanish version, contact the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, 415-865-7739.



The California court system’s public Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/ and Serranus, the courts’ password-protected Web site, at <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/> continually add information and features to keep the public and the courts up to date on judicial programs and resources. Following are recent additions.

Online: New Forms and Rules Effective July 1

All current Judicial Council forms are available for downloading. Most are available in fillable format (for on-screen completion), and many are also translated into other languages (although the translated forms are nonfillable). Newly amended California Rules of Court and links to all current local rules are available. www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms/, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/rules/localrules.htm

Violence Against Women Fact Sheet

The newest Judicial Council fact sheet describes the Violence Against Women Education Project (VAWEP), an initiative to provide the courts with information, educational materials, and training on their role in responding to these cases. www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdf/files/VAWEP.pdf

Updated Judicial Council Profile

The updated second edition of this informative 44-page booklet summarizes the history, role, structure, and membership of the council. www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/documents/profilejc.pdf

Three-Strikes Sentencing Guide Revised

The latest edition of *California Three Strikes Sentencing*, a guide to the application of Penal Code sections 667(b)–(j) and 1170.12, examines the appellate decisions that have attempted to interpret the three-strikes law. <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/3strikes.pdf>

Guide for Court-Related Legislation

The first annual *Implementation Guide for 2002 Trial Court-Related Legislation* provides summaries of legislation enacted in 2002 that require the attention of, or action in, the trial courts. <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/ig2002.pdf>

New on JBRadio

Selected video presentations from the Center for Judicial Education and Research’s (CJER) 2003 Civil Law Institute are available on JBRadio, a distance education project that brings programs to your desktop at home or at work. The available videos cover common errors on appeal, evidence, and settlement techniques. <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/education/jbradio/civil.htm>

Web Sites Increase Viewership

Serranus in June more than tripled its page views and hits compared to June of last year. Visits to the California Courts public Web site in April topped the half-million mark for the first time, a 12 percent increase over April of last year.

● Not a Serranus user? For access, e-mail serranus@jud.ca.gov

New Court Statistics Released

The *2003 Court Statistics Report*, a companion volume to the Judicial Council's *2003 Annual Report* to the Governor and Legislature, was posted to the California Courts Web site in June. Using data from the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS), the report provides detailed workload information for the state and for each of the 58 counties.

JBSIS was developed to improve the timeliness and accuracy of the statistical data used by courts and other branches of government to form state and local policy. It is the primary source of caseload and workload data throughout the judicial branch. The JBSIS Web site (<http://jbsis.courts.ca.gov>) gives courts immediate access to current and historical statistics. It is a secure site that is available only to courts and others who are authorized to gain access to it with a password.

● The *2003 Court Statistics Report* is available on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/3_stats.htm. A print edition, containing only statewide data, can be obtained by calling the California Courts Infoline at 800-900-5980.

Court Management Information at Your Fingertips

The second edition of the *Court Administration Reference Manual* (CARM) was posted to Ser-

ranus in May, giving court leaders easy access to comprehensive information on trial court management.

CARM provides presiding judges and court executive officers with centralized access to a multitude of court management authorities and resources, including the California Rules of Court and Standards of Judicial Administration. It contains sections on court governance, educational requirements, calendar management, alternative dispute resolution, financial management, human resources, facilities and security, technology, liability, and duties and responsibilities of presiding judges and court executive officers.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) developed CARM for court leaders, who wanted court management information compiled in one reference tool. The AOC developed and released the first edition, available only in print form, in August 2001.

The AOC encourages feedback on CARM to ensure that it remains a viable tool. Included in the CARM materials is an electronic form that users can use to submit comments and suggestions for additional resources or ways to make the information more user-friendly. The AOC will consider this feedback and anticipates releasing a third edition in 2004.

● To view CARM, visit <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/carm/>. For more information, contact Penelope Davis, AOC Senior Court Services Analyst, 415-865-7612; e-mail: penny.davis@jud.ca.gov. ■

Getting in Touch

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides easy access to its staff through the AOC Phone List and AOC Subject Matter Referral List. The phone list contains contact numbers for all AOC employees, listed both alphabetically and by division and unit. The referral list provides contacts for information on specific topics, such as accounting, juvenile courts, and new judge education.

The AOC Phone List and AOC Subject Matter Referral List can be viewed at http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/documents/smr_list.pdf

Court Briefs

Alameda County Streamlines Case Filing

The Superior Court of Alameda County on July 1 started two new services to make it easier for individuals to file documents with the court.

First, a service that the court dubbed "universal filing" enables attorneys and the public to file documents at any one of the seven court locations in Alameda County, regardless of where the case will be heard by a judge.

Second, the court began accepting civil, probate, and family law filings via facsimile. Faxed documents can be received directly by the court's computer, processed, and entered into the court's case management system. Once in the system, documents are available online through the court's Web site. If the case information is confidential, conformed copies are faxed or e-mailed to the filing parties. The required filing fees and the fax filing surcharge of \$1 per page may be paid by credit card.

The court anticipates that the new services will help ease the burden on litigants caused by the recent reduction in court business hours, a result of the state budget crisis.

● For more information, contact Arthur Sims, Executive Officer, Superior Court of Alameda County, 510-272-6076.

L.A. Jurors Hear Justice Talking

A program that debuted on the first day of Juror Appreciation Week has made prospective jurors in the Central District of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County the first in the country to have the opportunity to listen to recordings from the award-winning series *Justice Talking*. The jurors listen through headphones similar to those used for self-guided museum tours.

Justice Talking is a weekly radio program featuring renowned National Public Radio (NPR) reporter Margot Adler. It examines the cases and controversies that come before the nation's courts. Each broad-

cast is a fast-paced hour of timely debates about current legal battles, peppered with questions from a live studio audience.

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County—with help from the American Judicature Society, the National Center for State Courts, and the American Bar Association—partnered with the producer of *Justice Talking*, the Annenberg Public Policy Center in Philadelphia, to bring the program to its prospective jurors.

The project, which is funded by the Annenberg Foundation, is a pilot for spreading the service to courts nationwide.

● For more information, contact the Superior Court of Los Angeles County's Public Information Office, 213-974-5227.

San Joaquin Debuts Community Report

The Superior Court of San Joaquin County in June debuted its new quarterly report, *Focused on the Community*. With this report, the court aims to educate the community about court services and the legal system.

Focused on the Community will provide information about the work of the court, including outreach activities, new programs, accomplishments, and new judicial appointments. It will be distributed primarily via e-mail and posted to the court's Web site at www.stocktoncourt.org/courts/.

The initial issue features news of the court's legal academy for journalists, its small claims e-filing program, and its youth academy, in which high school students earn junior college credits through a five-week course on the justice system.

● For more information, contact Leanne Kozak, Public Information Officer, Superior Court of San Joaquin County, 209-468-8120; e-mail: lkozak@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us. ■

Scout Assists Adoption Court



Children leaving adoption court in Ventura County with their new families will take books and teddy bears with them, thanks to the efforts of a local Girl Scout.

Earning the Girl Scouts' Gold Award, the highest award given by the organization, Jessica Ryan spent more than 66 hours collecting books and sorting them into age-appropriate categories. Donations were collected through her service unit during Girl Scouts Week and from local bookstores. In addition, Jessica's neighbor, who owns a local Hallmark store, became aware of Jessica's project and donated 300 teddy bears to the court.

In April, Jessica and her family delivered more than 700 books to the courthouse. Judge Charles W. Campbell, Jr., who was on hand when the books were delivered, thanked Jessica and presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Ventura County



Calendar

CONFERENCES

- AUG 7–12 American Bar Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco
- AUG 16 California Court Association Central Training Day, Bakersfield
- AUG 19–23 National Association of State Judicial Educators Annual Conference, Reno
- SEP 4–6 State Bar Annual Meeting, Anaheim
- SEP 14–19 American Judges Association Annual Education Conference, Montreal, Canada
- OCT 3–5 California Judges Association Rural Judges Forum, Quincy
- OCT 11–13 Superior Court Clerks' Association Annual Conference, Fort Bragg
- OCT 28–30 National Center for State Courts Court Technology Conference, Kansas City, MO
- OCT 31–NOV 2 California Judges Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Judicial Council business meetings will be held at the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco unless otherwise noted.

AUG 29 Oct 21

● Contact: Secretariat, 415-865-7640; e-mail: jcservices@jud.ca.gov. Judicial Council meeting information is also posted on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/.

FORUMS/WORKSHOPS

- SEP 9 Labor & Employee Relations Regional Forum, Northern/Central Region Conference Call
- SEP 18 Labor & Employee Relations Regional Forum, Southern Region Conference Call
- SEP 23 Labor & Employee Relations Regional Forum, Bay Area/Northern Coastal Region Conference Call
- OCT 30 Complex Civil Litigation Workshop, Los Angeles

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Programs

- AUG 3–8 Continuing Judicial Studies Program, San Diego
- OCT 15–17 Appellate Justices Institute, San Francisco
- OCT 20–22 Presiding Judges Orientation and Court Management Program, San Francisco
- OCT 28–29 Assigned Judges Ethics Conference, Santa Ana

Court Management

- AUG 6 Managing @ Court: Critical Thinking, Burbank
- AUG 6–7 Management Foundations, Burbank
- AUG 13 Managing @ Court: Having Difficult Conversations, Burbank
- AUG 15 Leadership Expedition, Session III: Models of Leadership, Sacramento

- AUG 20 Managing @ Court: Coaching Skills, San Francisco
- AUG 22 Management University: Ethics for Managers, Sacramento
- AUG 27 Managing @ Court: Coaching Skills, Burbank
- AUG 28 Leadership Expedition, Session IV: Character of Leadership, Online
- SEP 3 Managing @ Court: Creating a Motivational Environment, San Francisco
- SEP 10 Managing @ Court: Creating a Motivational Environment, Burbank
- SEP 17 Managing @ Court: Conflict Management, San Francisco
- SEP 18 Leadership Expedition, Session V: Leadership in Practice, Sacramento
- SEP 24 Managing @ Court: Conflict Management, Burbank
- SEP 25 Management University: Finance Skills for Non-Financial Professionals, Sacramento
- SEP 30 Leadership Expedition, Session VI: Best Practices in the Courts, Online
- OCT 1 Managing @ Court: Building Your Court Team, San Francisco
- OCT 2 Management University: Resource Allocation, San Francisco
- OCT 8 Managing @ Court: Building Your Court Team, Burbank
- OCT 9 Leadership Expedition, Session VII: Putting It All Together, Sacramento
- OCT 15 Managing @ Court: Interviewing Skills, San Francisco
- OCT 22 Managing @ Court: Interviewing Skills, Burbank
- OCT 23–24 Management Foundations, San Francisco
- OCT 29 Managing @ Court: Presentation Skills, San Francisco
- OCT 30 Managing @ Court: Critical Thinking, Sacramento

Family Law

- SEP 24–26 AB 1058-Child Support Training Conference, San Diego
- SEP 25 Family Dispute Resolution Regional Training, Burbank
- SEP 26 Family Dispute Resolution Regional Training, Fresno
- SEP 30 Family Dispute Resolution Regional Training, Riverside
- OCT 2 Family Dispute Resolution Regional Training, Sacramento
- OCT 7 Family Dispute Resolution Regional Training, San Francisco

Orientation

- SEP 8–12 New Judge Orientation, San Francisco
- SEP 29–OCT 3 New Judge Orientation, San Francisco

Computer Classes

- OCT 23–24 Computer Class for Judges, Los Angeles
- Note: Computer class students must have a Serranus user name and password to participate.

COURT NEWS

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Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

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